

VALE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

December 11, 2014

Rutgers University

FINAL

Present: J. Avrin, A. Beth, J. Cohn, H. Craven, C. Daze, G. Fallon, M. Gaunt, P. Glassman, G. Laskaris, S. Muir, T. Pavlovsky, R. Sweeney (via teleconference), M. Thompson, J. Toth

1. Call to Order / Welcome & Minutes of the September 23, 2014 Meeting

Taras Pavlovsky convened the meeting and the minutes of the September 23, 2014 meeting were approved as revised.

2. Strategic Planning

One concern raised by attendees at the strategic planning retreat was that while VALE's stated mission is to serve "libraries," time and resources are currently tied up in activities focused on "librarians." The Executive Committee concurs that VALE is experiencing mission creep. Marianne Gaunt moved that VALE refocus its activities on its stated mission of collaboration among member libraries. The motion passed unanimously. This will mean de-prioritizing activities that focus on "librarians," such as professional development, and concentrating resources on activities that support the six priorities set out in the VALE Strategic Plan. Questions to consider: what services can we provide to members? is VALID a tool that can provide some of those services?

The Executive Committee is considering changing the committee structure to include three categories of working groups: 1) standing committees to support ongoing projects in support of the strategic priorities, 2) task forces to carry out specific tasks as needed, 3) special interest groups. The special interest groups might address concerns that are not directly within the scope of VALE's mission and strategic priorities but which have value for members; they would not report formally to the Executive Committee or receive ongoing resources. It was noted that other organizations such as ACRL and LibraryLinkNJ are also available for meeting professional development needs.

Another concern raised at the retreat was that channels of communication between VALE leadership and members need to be improved. Ideas discussed included giving incremental reports and using either a volunteer or hiring a part-time person to focus on communications. There was general agreement that the status quo is not sufficient; VALE needs to reach out more (and more effectively) to communicate to the membership. Cohn mentioned that specifically, VALE needs to explain how VALID may "level the playing field." At the present time, many members feel that if they are not participating in VALID, there is little benefit to them from VALE membership. In other words, they are unaware of the benefits of statewide cooperation.

3. Treasurer's Report

Joe Toth presented the October and November Budget Activity Reports. Revenue from payment of member invoices for both months totaled \$981,011.52 and an additional \$300 in vendor support for the conference was received. In October the final transfer of \$68,406.23 was made to the Reserve Account to "repay" funds needed to set up FY15 VALE accounts.

November expenditures included \$1,182.25 in catering costs for the Strategic Planning retreat, \$4,500 for the VALID workshop consultant fee, and reimbursement of \$140 in travel fees to Judy Avrin.

4. VALID Update

Marianne Gaunt reported that VOSC hosted two workshops in November to gather information in preparation for a VALID business plan. Attendees included members of VOSC, VOIT, and library directors and CIOs from alpha libraries. Their combined report is due in mid-December. VOSC will use the data to form a VALID business plan recommendation for the VALE Executive Committee.

Members of VOSC and VOIT visited Lehigh University Libraries in November to discuss their implementation OLE. The overall response was very positive. The implementation has gone well and staff are pleased with the results. They noted that there was no loss in service migrating from SIRSI to OLE. Particular things to consider: review policies (circulation, for example); less is more; clean up the data (why do you use some fields?); training is important and repeating it is crucial. A power point they prepared will be shared on the VOSC website.

Grace Agnew and Chris Sterback from Rutgers attended KUALI days. Grace noted that OLE is not one of KUALI's major projects, and that may be one reason that the communications about KUALI changes had such an impact on OLE. Because there was little consultation about the change to KUALICo with the OLE leadership, KUALI has asked OLE to make recommendations as to how they (OLE) would like to relate in the future to KUALI. Grace has had a discussion with members of that team about some of our concerns. Their report is due in early 2015. Grace is not concerned that the potential KUALI changes will negatively affect our consortial implementation and planning.

Other issues: important to emphasize collaborate benefits for all NJ libraries, even those not participating in VALID. Cooperative development is prime example. VOSC will have two sessions at the Users' Conference.

5. VALE / NJEDGE Partnership Review Committee

George Laskaris advised they will call for a meeting to take place prior to assuming fiscal responsibility from William Paterson University.

6. Executive Committee Membership

Pavlovsky reported that on December 7th Nancy Becker submitted her resignation from the Executive Committee due to work conflicts. She had been appointed to complete Andrew Scrimgeour's term, (July 2013 – June 2015) representing the independent sector. In accordance with the by-laws, the committee agreed that David Hardgrove (Saint Peter's College) should be asked to fill the remainder of the term. Pavlovsky will contact him.

7. VOSC Leadership

Gaunt will be stepping down as co-chair effective 12/12/14 which will leave the committee without a liaison to the Executive Committee. Pavlovsky proposed that Kurt Wagner be named chair, and rather than appoint an Executive Committee member as liaison, that Wagner be appointed a Member-At-Large of the Executive Committee. The committee agreed and the possibility of his attending every other meeting or participating by teleconference were discussed in order to reduce the impact on his responsibilities at WPU.

Paul Glassman will consider the implications and speak with Wagner and advise Pavlovsky by Monday, 12/15/14.

8. Community College Project Request

Amy Beth presented a project request to update the existing VALE map in order to reflect the many changes in institution names and to create a separate VALE Community College member libraries map. Following brief discussion the committee agreed that a single map, separately identifying the community colleges, was preferred. Beth will have each institution confirm name and location information. Funding not to exceed \$500 was approved.

9. Plaque to Honor Richard Kearney

Colleen Daze presented a funding request from conference co-chair Nancy Weiner for a plaque honoring Richard Kearny for his many years of participation in and leadership of the Conference Planning Committee. It was approved for a maximum of \$300.

10. Archives/Special Collections Committee Proposal

The creation of the committee was approved at the last meeting pending changes to the documents which have been completed. Pavlovsky will ask Jeanne Boyle to serve as Executive Committee liaison.

11. NJASL Request

Pavlovsky received an email from NJASL president Arlen Kimmelman requesting help in identifying schools that still have librarians. Daze suggested the State Library may be able to help. Pavlovsky will also reach out to Cheryl O'Connor.

12. ProQuest Sales Tax Issue

Pavlovsky reminded the group that VALE has used WPU's status as a not-for-profit educational institution as the basis for not paying sales tax on any product that we license. ProQuest has notified VALE that this arrangement is not sufficient and has requested sales tax exemption documentation from all subscribing institutions. Following a call with Brian Gately & Sheri Prupis at NJEdge, the need for individual documentation was confirmed. Pavlovsky will reach out to each library and Avrin will inform ProQuest representatives.

13. Website Issues

Over the past few years institutional name changes, mergers and campus additions necessitated changes to resources on the website. Among these are a handful of institutional directories and the Reciprocal Borrowing lists. The Website Committee is requesting guidance from the Executive Committee as to how member institutions, their branches and campuses are identified. Pavlovsky recommended that Executive Committee liaison Sweeney meet with Website Committee chair Tony Joachim. Mark Thompson will work with them.

14. Tri-Annual Report

Cohn reported on a conference call with Gaunt and Avrin following the September meeting. Avrin sent the others compiled committee reports from the past 3 years. Cohn has set up a template for an 11 x 17 (4 page) format into which we will insert the relevant components. It mirrors the layout of the website with regard to branding, logos and color. They will try to have a mockup for the January meeting. Still needed: message from Pavlovsky as chair, compile database usage statistics and financials.

15. NJEDGE Conference

Pavlovsky reported that the CAO panel session, skillfully moderated by Amy Beth, was very positively received. Beth suggested sharing the questions with each institution. When video of the session is posted on NJVid, Laskaris will be asked to send the link to all the CAOs.

16. NJEDge Transition

January 19th is the official cutover date for transition to NJEDge as fiscal agent. Avrin's last day at WPU will be January 16th.

17. State Library Update

There was no news to report.

18. Executive Committee Membership News

Pavlovsky thanked Paul Glassman for his participation as fiduciary representative.

Pavlovsky presented and read into the record, a resolution honoring Marianne Gaunt for her extraordinary contributions to VALE and the NJ academic library community.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2014 at Rider University following Members' Council.

Minutes prepared by J. Avrin